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**General Assembly**
**Tenth emergency special session**
Agenda item 5
**Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory**

**Security Council**
**Sixty-ninth year**

## Identical letters dated 12 May 2014 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Observer Mission of the State of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to convey a letter addressed to you from Riad Malki, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the State of Palestine, regarding the rampant and intensifying acts of terrorism, destruction, provocation and incitement being perpetrated by Israeli settlers, with the backing and support of the Israeli occupying forces, against the Palestinian people and their properties, including holy sites, and the grave impact of these illegal actions on the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, on the situation on the ground and on the prospects for achieving a just, lasting and peaceful solution to this tragic conflict (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter and its annex distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Feda **Abdelhady-Nasser**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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## Annex to the identical letters dated 12 May 2014 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Observer Mission of the State of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

11 May 2014

There is wide international consensus that there is no greater threat to peace in our region than settlement activity. The illegal settlement enterprise is also the main obstacle to the realization of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people as guaranteed under international law. There are now over 500,000 settlers in the occupied State of Palestine. In the last nine months of negotiations alone, Israel, the occupying Power, advanced settlement units for over 55,000 new settlers.

In the same period, we recorded over 650 attacks by settlers against Palestinian civilians. Recent years have witnessed a sharp increase in settlers' violence, against people, property and land. The impunity of these settlers has led to an escalation of their attacks. Such violence is met by our side with the utmost restraint and full commitment to the non-violent path. However, without accountability and severe consequences for such actions, these attacks will continue and intensify, further jeopardizing peace efforts. It is a matter of coherence and credibility, especially as these indiscriminate attacks against civilians, including the elderly, children and women, constitute war crimes.

These attacks are carried out on the territory of the occupied State of Palestine and occur essentially in area C, which remains under full Israeli control. We recall here the obligations of the occupying Power, in accordance with the Fourth Geneva Convention, to ensure the protection of the civilian population under its occupation. Israel has not taken any serious step to address this dangerous phenomenon, and its occupation army, where settlers serve, has often offered protection to these settlers during attacks, when it has not itself taken part in them. Continued Israeli provocations and aggression can only further destabilize the situation on the ground, with perilous ramifications. This impunity cannot be tolerated. It is the international community's responsibility to act decisively to stop these daily attacks.

Taking advantage of their impunity, settlers committing these acts of violence have structured themselves within organized groups. "Price tag" and "hilltop youth" are the best known among them, for their racist ideology and regular attacks targeting Palestinian civilians. In the last month alone, these attacks have included vandalizing Muslim and Christian cemeteries, beating children, attacking women with pepper spray, launching raids against villages, inscribing racist graffiti and torching cars. In its report issued in April 2014, the United States bureau on counter-terrorism referred to the attacks perpetrated by "price tag". Israeli officials have themselves called these actions hate crimes and even terror. Such groups, through their indiscriminate attacks against innocent civilians, are not criminal groups or illegal associations; they are terrorist groups, and have to be dealt with as such. We call upon you, who have regularly condemned such attacks, to take the only decision possible as regards "price tag" and "hilltop youth" by considering them as terrorist groups, with all the political, legal and financial implications such a decision holds. This decision will send a clear signal to all other settlers groups that their action will not remain unpunished, and will give an incentive for the end

of these terrorist attacks against our civilian population. It is an important first step towards accountability and justice.

Settlers attacks are carried out with the aim of seriously intimidating the population in these areas and forcibly transferring them away from their land and homes, thus seriously damaging not only the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, but also seriously jeopardizing peace efforts.

We trust that you will respond positively to this request, fully aware of the urgency of a decision on this matter.

We thank you for your attention to the issue and efforts.

(*Signed*) Riad **Malki**
Minister for Foreign Affairs

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**Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory**

**Security Council**
**Sixty-ninth year**

## Identical letters dated 15 May 2014 from the Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

On this day, the Palestinian people sombrely mark the passage of 66 years since *Al-Nakba*, the tragedy in 1948 in which the majority of Palestinians were forcibly uprooted and expelled from their homes and lands in Mandate Palestine or fled in fear for their lives after the brutal massacres perpetrated by Israeli militias and forces against thousands of innocent Palestinian men, women, children and elderly persons in villages and towns throughout the land in a clear act of ethnic cleansing. Violently displaced and dispossessed, more than 750,000 Palestinians became refugees in other parts of Palestine and in neighbouring countries, namely Jordan, Lebanon and the Syrian Arab Republic. Today, the Palestinian refugees number more than 5 million people, with the majority of them living in refugee camps administered by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) throughout the region.

The plight of the Palestine refugees remains at the core of Palestinian history, psyche and struggle for justice and freedom that continues to this day. And, regrettably, the Palestinian people continue to suffer an ongoing *nakba*, as Israel, the occupying Power, persists with its cruel denial of the rights of the Palestinian people and persists with its brutal, blatant and systematic subjugation of the millions of Palestinians under its nearly 47-year military occupation by all illegal, repressive and destructive means and measures.

Demonstrations were held today throughout Occupied Palestine, as elsewhere around the world, to mark the sixty-sixth anniversary of *Al-Nakba* and to call once again for the realization of the rights of the Palestinian people, including their inalienable right to self-determination and right to return, and for the realization of justice, both fundamental for the achievement of real peace and coexistence. Regrettably, Israel, the occupying Power, behaved in a typically violent, aggressive

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manner against the thousands of Palestinian civilians partaking in *Al-Nakba* demonstrations, killing two young Palestinians and injuring dozens of others.

Two of the victims of this senseless Israeli brutality were young Palestinian boys, Muhammed Odeh Abu Al-Thahir, age 15, and Nadim Siyam Nuwarah, age 17, who were shot and killed by the occupying forces today. Al-Thahir and Nuwarah were killed during a demonstration near the Israeli detention centre known as "Ofer" near Ramallah, a demonstration that was convened to commemorate *Al-Nakba* and also as an expression of solidarity with Palestinian prisoners and detainees, including those administrative detainees who have been on hunger strike for 22 days in protest of their captivity and abuse by the occupying Power. The two boys died after being hit by live ammunition to the chest and three other youths were also injured by live fire from the Israeli occupying forces. In other areas, including Al-Khalil, Bethlehem, Nablus and at the Qalandiya checkpoint between Ramallah and Jerusalem, Palestinian civilian protesters suffered injury as a result of the firing by the occupying forces of rubber-coated steel bullets and tear gas canisters, leading to the hospitalization of at least a dozen people.

We condemn the killing and injury of Palestinian civilians by Israel, the occupying Power, and condemn its use of force against peaceful demonstrators simply calling for freedom and justice for their people and for the exercise of their inalienable human rights. We reject all unlawful Israeli measures to repress our calls for justice, including the calls for the right of the Palestine refugees to return, and its relentless attempts to distort, or even erase, the Palestinian history and narrative.

We reiterate that Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable for all of its illegal practices and acts of aggression against the Palestinian people. Today, more than ever, we are reminded of the injustice borne by the Palestinian people for nearly seven decades and appeal to the international community once again, including the Security Council and General Assembly, to uphold their political and moral responsibilities and to act collectively to demand and to ensure the compliance by Israel with all of its obligations under international law, including humanitarian and human rights law, a fundamental prerequisite if we are ever to achieve an end to this tragic conflict and establish genuine peace, security and coexistence.

In closing, I wish to highlight a statement made today by President Mahmoud Abbas in commemorating *Al-Nakba*: "It is time to put an end to the longest occupation in modern history and time for Israel's leaders to understand that there is no other homeland for Palestinians but Palestine."

This letter is in follow-up to our 495 letters regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, which constitutes the territory of the State of Palestine. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 5 May 2014 (A/ES-10/626-S/2014/317) constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, acts of State terrorism and systematic human rights violations being committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Riyad **Mansour**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations

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**Security Council**
**Sixty-ninth year**

## Identical letters dated 29 May 2014 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Observer Mission of the State of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I write to alert you to the critical situation and continuously rising tensions in the Occupied State of Palestine, including East Jerusalem, as a result of Israel's relentless provocations and illegal actions against the Palestinian people. On a daily basis, the occupying Power persists with its grave violations of international humanitarian and human rights law, which include rampant settlement activities, military raids, systematic detention and arrest of Palestinians, constant provocations, including incitement at holy sites and the destruction of Palestinian property by extremist Israeli settlers, and the suffocating blockade on the Gaza Strip. All of these violations exacerbate conditions on the ground, intensifying the hardships faced by the Palestinian people and solidifying doubts about Israel's so-called desire for peace.

In this regard, I would like first to address Israel's relentless policy of incitement and provocations against holy sites in Occupied East Jerusalem, namely at Haram al-Sharif (the Noble Sanctuary), which houses the holy Al-Aqsa Mosque and Qubbat al-Sakhra (Dome of the Rock). In a dangerous development, Israeli provocations at this sensitive area have escalated in frequency and intensity. On 27 May 2014, thousands of Jewish extremists, including 30 rabbis, set out to march through the Old City to celebrate so-called Jerusalem Day, marking Israel's occupation of East Jerusalem in 1967. As a result, clashes broke out between Palestinian worshippers and Israeli "border police" and "special units" accompanying the Jewish extremists. During the clashes, Israeli occupying forces fired stun grenades and rubber-coated bullets at innocent Palestinian worshippers, attacking some with pepper spray. Many Palestinians were injured by rubber-coated bullets and a 68-year-old Palestinian man was severely beaten.

In addition to the above-mentioned human rights violations, the occupying forces also violated the right to worship by preventing hundreds of Palestinian men and women from accessing Al-Aqsa Mosque to perform morning prayers. We reiterate



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our cautionary appeals, drawing attention to the dangers of such continuous provocations and incitement in or near Al-Aqsa Mosque, the first *qibla* and third holiest site in Islam, which remains under the supervision of the Islamic Waqf and the custodianship of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. Further provocations will only inflame the already elevated tensions and anger among the Palestinian population, threatening to completely destabilize the situation on the ground, with far-reaching consequences.

Accordingly, all such acts of incitement against holy sites in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, as well as acts of deliberate provocation against the Palestinian people by the occupying Power, whether by the Government of Israel, its occupying forces or its illegal settlers, warrant the serious and immediate attention of the international community, including the Security Council, in line with its primary Charter duty of the maintenance of international peace and security and in line with its numerous relevant resolutions calling for a cessation of all Israeli measures aimed at altering the character, legal status and demography of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including of East Jerusalem.

I must also bring to your attention the critical situation of Palestinian political prisoners illegally imprisoned and detained by Israel. Thousands of Palestinians, among them women and children, continue to be held in deplorable conditions and subjected to grave human rights violations. In particular, I must underscore the plight of hundreds of prisoners who have been on a hunger strike for more than five weeks in protest of their unlawful detention. These detainees are starving themselves and risking their lives in peaceful, non-violent protest of their detention without charge and of the massive abuses being perpetrated against them and their fellow prisoners by the occupying Power. Currently, more than 40 Palestinian detainees on hunger strike have been hospitalized owing to deteriorating health conditions and many of their lives are in imminent danger.

We urge the international community to take action to compel Israel, the occupying Power, to cease these deplorable practices and to heed the calls for the release of Palestinian prisoners and detainees and for respect for their human rights. Serious efforts must be made by the international community to compel Israel to comply with international law, including humanitarian law, specifically article 76 of the Geneva Convention Relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, which clearly defines the rights of protected persons faced with detention by an occupying Power. The international community must ensure that the occupying Power acts humanely towards peaceful, non-violent hunger-striking prisoners and to release them and all other Palestinians who are being unlawfully and arbitrarily imprisoned and detained.

The international community cannot continue to absolve Israel, the occupying Power, of its responsibility for these violations and of its obligations under international law and the relevant United Nations resolutions. We call on the international community to act with urgency and responsibility to ensure the de-escalation of this perilous situation in Occupied Palestine, including in particular in Occupied East Jerusalem, and to bring a halt to the occupying Power's violations of international law, which are totally unjustifiable, remain the source of grave hardship and suffering of the Palestinian people, and seriously jeopardize the prospects for realizing a peaceful, just settlement on the basis of international law

and relevant United Nations resolutions and in accordance with the two-State solution based on the pre-1967 borders.

The present letter is in follow-up to our 496 letters regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, which constitutes the territory of the State of Palestine. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 15 May 2014 (A/ES-10/628-S/2014/347), constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, acts of State terrorism and systematic human rights violations being committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Feda **Abdelhady-Nasser**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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**Security Council**
**Sixty-ninth year**

## Identical letters dated 5 June 2014 from the Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

Today, the Palestinian people sombrely mark the forty-seventh year of the Israeli military occupation. Regrettably, the gross oppression, colonization, violation of Palestinian human rights and denial of Palestinian national rights and aspirations that have characterized this occupation for decades since its onset in 1967 persist to this day, as we witness the unrelenting crimes, provocations and intransigence of Israel, the occupying Power, in flagrant disrespect of international law and of the demands and will of the international community.

The Palestinian people and their leadership stand united in rejecting this illegitimate, belligerent and destructive occupation in all its manifestations and in appealing and striving for a peaceful, just and comprehensive solution, in accordance with international law and the relevant United Nations resolutions. That solution must guarantee the end of the Israeli occupation that began in June 1967 and the independence of the State of Palestine, with East Jerusalem as its capital, and ensure the fulfilment of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people and the achievement of just solutions for all outstanding core issues. This position was clearly reaffirmed by the Palestinian national unity government sworn in by President Mahmoud Abbas on 2 June 2014.

Regrettably, this proven Palestinian commitment to a peaceful solution, whereby the State of Palestine and the State of Israel will live side by side in peace, security and coexistence on the basis of the pre-1967 borders, continues to be blatantly ignored by Israel. Instead, the occupying Power chooses to persist with its illegal policies and practices against the Palestinian people and their land, including its illegal settlement campaign. With every provocative announcement, arrogant, illogical decision and destructive action in this regard, Israel is entrenching its illegal occupation of the Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, destroying the Territory's contiguity and viability and the prospects for realizing the two-State

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solution, rather than acting in good faith to end the occupation and make peace a reality.

Here, we must draw attention to the latest Israeli announcement of plans to construct another 1,500 settlement units in the West Bank, including at least 400 in Occupied East Jerusalem. In announcing these plans, the Housing Minister, who is a member of an extreme rightist party, declared that this step was being taken in retaliation against the formation of the new Palestinian unity government, thereby revealing not only the deliberate perpetration of this grave breach of article 49 of the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949, but also of article 33 of said Convention, which prohibits acts of collective punishment, pillaging and reprisals by the occupying Power.

We call on the international community, including the Security Council and the General Assembly, in line with their respective Charter duties, to uphold their responsibilities and to act concertedly to address this crisis.

The relevant Security Council and General Assembly resolutions regarding Israel's unlawful settlement campaign in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, must be respected and implemented. Israel, the occupying Power, must not continue to be absolved of its obligations as a Member State to respect the resolutions of the United Nations, nor absolved of its obligations under international law, including the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949 and the core human rights conventions. Moreover, we recall the legal pronouncement of the International Court of Justice in its advisory opinion of 9 July 2004 on this matter and call for its respect. It is of utmost urgency that serious and practical efforts are undertaken to hold Israel accountable for its violations and repeated obstruction of all peace initiatives and to compel Israel to abandon its expansionist, colonization agenda and commit instead to the path of peace.

Before concluding, I must also draw attention to the continuing critical situation of thousands of Palestinian prisoners and administrative detainees being held captive by Israel, the occupying Power. In particular, we must stress the emergency situation of more than one hundred detainees and prisoners on hunger strike in protest of their captivity and the rampant abuses meted out against them by the occupying Power. The majority of these prisoners and detainees are in their forty-third day of hunger strike, endangering their health and lives, as they persist in peacefully demanding their rights. It has also been revealed that 60 of the hunger strikers have been transferred to solitary confinement, yet another cruel, unlawful form of punishment flagrantly used by Israel against Palestinian civilians in its prisons.

We thus reiterate our urgent call on the international community to compel Israel, the occupying Power, to cease its illegal use of administrative detention and all other illegal practices, including torture and solitary confinement, against Palestinian prisoners and detainees, as well as to persist in the global demands for the release of all Palestinian prisoners and detainees held by Israel, including the release of children, women and elected officials. The international community cannot remain silent while the critical situation continues to escalate and so many lives are at stake.

The present letter is in follow-up to our 496 letters regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, which constitutes

the territory of the State of Palestine. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 29 May 2014 (A/ES-10/629-S/2014/381) constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, acts of State terrorism and systematic human rights violations being committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Riyad **Mansour**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations